

Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Meeting

May 31, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Roderick Hawthorne at 9:30 AM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

Quorum present: Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, LHRC Chairman, Mary Baylor, Marilyn Copeland, Sara Flippens, and Wanda Ward.

Quorum absent: All committee members were present.

Regional Advocate, DMHMRSAS, present: Reginald Daye.

Affiliate Representatives: Phil Black, Commonwealth Support Systems; Gilbert Hernandez, Jr., Community Services of Virginia, Inc.; Joan Whitted, Emerson Place, Inc.; Juanita Austin & Sharon Hopkins, Family Redirection Institute, Inc.; Ethel Heyward, G.R.A.C.E., Inc.; Chrystal Miller, James Bentley Treatment Program; Kimberly Pervall, Northwestern Human Services, Inc.; Bill Miller, Sentara Behavioral Health Services; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services; Kenyette Bishop, Tranquility Manor, LLC; and Cynthia Whitehead, Unique Friends, LLC.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes were approved as written for the meeting held on 2/22/06. The approved minutes were forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, on 6/2/06 to be posted on the state website.

A hard copy of the minutes will be mailed to Reginald Daye, Regional Advocate.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There are no vacancies for committee members on this LHRC. Two committee members, Marilyn Copeland and Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, have appointments that will expire 6/3/06. Both have agreed to be reappointed.

Existing human rights regulations are in a draft format, and are currently awaiting feedback by cabinet secretaries. The revised regulations can be viewed on the web: <http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/documents/OHR-RevisedRegulations.pdf>

The minutes approved at the current meeting will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, to be posted on the state website (margaret.walsh@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov) within three (3) business days. A draft of the current minutes will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh for posting on the website within ten (10) business days of the Committee meeting. The “Freedom of Information Act” mandates that all service providers post at each of their sites the date, time, and location of all scheduled LHRC meetings. This posting will include a list of all meetings scheduled for the upcoming year (8/23/06, 11/29/06, and 2/28/07).

V. NEW BUSINESS:

The next Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) conference, scheduled for September 7–8, will be held in Richmond at the Holiday Inn on Koger Center Blvd. There are 325 spaces available for attendees, but LHRC members are given priority over non-members. Four of the five Hampton Roads Regional LHRC members are planning to attend the conference.

Mr. Daye reminded affiliates they needed to assume greater responsibility for LHRC meeting reminders/notification. The role of making reminder calls is rotated among all the affiliates. Emerson Place, Inc. is responsible for making reminder calls for the LHRC meeting scheduled for 8/23/06.

Bill Miller, currently managing the finances, reported a balance of \$1,943 as of 5/31/06. All affiliated service providers paid their annual dues except Northwestern Human Services, Inc. According to the Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Provider Responsibilities Agreement 2006, a provider has 30 days from the first meeting of the year to pay their dues and remain compliant.

VI. NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTING AFFILIATION:

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. reported they are planning to add an additional program, which would provide services for children. Per Mr. Daye, the agency must submit its training plan for the management of aggressive behavior, and its human rights policies and procedures to the Committee for review.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. had previously been granted temporary affiliation for an additional site in Newport News that would mirror their current services and clientele. The agency submitted a corrected Human Rights policy to the Office of Human Rights. The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation this date for the additional site. The agency also requested temporary affiliation for a group home in Hampton that would provide outpatient services for clients in that area. The Committee voted and approved temporary affiliation for the additional facility. In addition, the agency requested temporary affiliation for outpatient substance abuse services. The Committee voted and approved temporary affiliation for all outpatient substance abuse services.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. had previously been granted temporary affiliation for a second facility in Hampton that would mirror their current services and clientele. As it is now licensed, the Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation this date for the second facility.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. had also been granted temporary affiliation for a fifth facility that would mirror their current services and clientele. As it is also now licensed, the Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation this date for the additional facility.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS:

Commonwealth Support Systems – 25 individuals are in day support, and 6 are receiving in-home residential support. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one incident of peer-to-peer abuse was reported.

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. – 86 consumers (34 are receiving in-home services, 17 in day support programs, and 35 are group home residents). No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse (under investigation) was reported.

Emerson Place, Inc. – 3 residential consumers. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse reported (from the previous quarter) was unfounded. A progress report of an approved behavioral plan that includes the use of a protective device must be presented to the LHRC at each quarterly meeting. The annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted on 2/22/06 after Mr. Daye reinforced that programs can be fined for noncompliance.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. – 51 in-home counseling consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported, but one serious injury occurred in April.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. – 4 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. The annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted on 2/22/06.

James Bentley Treatment Program – 4 residential consumers. No seclusion or restraints reported, but two allegations of abuse were reported. The annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints has been submitted this date (6/14/06).

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. – 23 individuals are in residential support, and 0 are receiving in-home services. No restraints reported, but one seclusion and two allegations of abuse were reported.

Sentara Mental Health Services – 33 inpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services – 21 outpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Tranquility Manor, LLC – 14 residential consumers, and 17 day support consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. The agency reported their 3-year license was just renewed.

Unique Friends, LLC – 4 consumers are in residential support, and 2 are receiving in-home services. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse was reported.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an incident of peer-to-peer abuse at Commonwealth Support Systems. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the alleged abuse. The Committee recommended that a Commonwealth Support Systems staff member confirm that the victim in the incident understood his right to appeal. Once this is confirmed, an addendum to the original report will be submitted to the Office of Human Rights.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an allegation of abuse still under investigation at Community Services of Virginia, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the alleged abuse. The Committee recommended that Community Services of Virginia, Inc. present the APS report at the next meeting.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a behavior plan submitted by Emerson Place, Inc., and an allegation of abuse (from the previous quarter) at Emerson Place, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the behavior plan and the alleged abuse. Regarding the behavior plan, the Committee recommended that Emerson Place, Inc. continue using the helmet, and follow-up with speech evaluation to increase the consumer's

communications skills. Regarding the alleged abuse, the Committee had no further recommendations for Emerson Place, Inc.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a serious injury that occurred in April at Family Redirection Institute, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the serious injury. The Committee had no further recommendations for Family Redirection Institute, Inc.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review two allegations of abuse at James Bentley Treatment Program. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the allegations of abuse. The Committee recommended James Bentley Treatment Program report back to the Committee if the individual involved in the abuse cases was ever charged.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review two allegations of abuse at Northwestern Human Services, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the allegations of abuse. Regarding the first allegation, the Committee recommended that Northwestern Human Services, Inc. continue to support the individual according to the individual's service plan. Regarding the second allegation, the Committee recommended that Northwestern Human Services, Inc. closely monitor staff and continue to support the individual.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an allegation of abuse at Unique Friends, LLC. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the alleged abuse. The Committee had no further recommendations for Unique Friends, LLC.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 9:30 AM sharp at Family Redirection Institute, Inc., 3401 County Street, Portsmouth, VA (398-0200).

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Stinespring, RNC
LHRC Program Support Liaison

Dr. Roderick Hawthorne
LHRC Chairman